

Memorial Redevelopment Project



Frequently asked questions

Below are a series of frequently asked questions pertaining to the Australian War Memorial redevelopment project. Should further details be sought, enquiries can be emailed through to redemption@awm.gov.au.

Q: Why does the Memorial feel this redevelopment is necessary?

A: The Memorial currently does not have the gallery space to properly tell the stories of the Australian experience of recent conflicts and peacekeeping and humanitarian operations such as those in East Timor, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

Q: How will the visitor experience be improved through the redevelopments?

A: The Memorial's redevelopment will improve existing commemorative, exhibition, and visitor amenity needs. The planned redevelopment will see an expansion of visitor and gallery areas of 83 per cent or around 10,000 square metres. This will increase our exhibition, visitor, and public program space, which is currently at capacity.

Q: Will the iconic Memorial building be affected?

A: The Memorial's original heritage buildings, including the Hall of Memory, will not be affected by the redevelopment. The traditional external façade and front vista will remain unaltered by the redevelopment.

Q: Why is the Memorial proposing to build a car park at the base of Mt Ainslie?

A: Discussions with the ACT Government about the use of the land at the base of Mt Ainslie in support of the Memorial Redevelopment Project are at a preliminary stage, and will be updated as the project progresses. The parcel of land required for use is modest. It is intended the carpark would be constructed by the Memorial and remain ACT land. Any design would consider the natural aesthetic of the area and would improve the amenity for visitors to the Memorial and people seeking to access Mt Ainslie. Enhancements to visitor amenities at the base of Mount Ainslie, way-finding, and facilities will be funded from the redevelopment project budget.

Q: What is the timeline for the construction process?

A: Recruitment of an Executive Project Director has been finalised, with [Mr Wayne Hitches](#) due to take up the role from 8 April 2019. Tender and procurement processes are currently under way, and an expression of interest for architectural services was recently published on AusTender. It is expected that the first construction activity will commence in late 2020.

Q: Wouldn't this money be better spent on funding veterans' support?

A: The Prime Minister, Minister for Veterans' Affairs, and Director of the Memorial have reaffirmed that the funding for the Memorial's redevelopment will not come at the expense of spending on veteran welfare. The redevelopment project funding is less than one per cent of the Department of Veterans' Affairs budget and even less of the overall Defence budget. This is not a matter of one or the other, but a commitment to both. It's important to note that this decision received bi-partisan support from the Australian parliament.